

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028502  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DONEWBERRY:SEB  
APPROVED BY NEA:ARDA  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION  
NEA ONLY

-----090016Z 102687 /70

P 082250Z FEB 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028502

STADIS////////////////////////////////////  
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/EGY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP EG

SUBJECT: 1977 VISIT OF COPTIC POPE SHENOUDA TO US

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR GHORBAL INFORMED NEA/EGY DIRECTOR  
NEWBERRY FEBRUARY 7 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED APPROVAL IN  
PRINCIPLE FROM EGYPTIAN MFA FOR FOLLOWING SCENARIO TO  
FINESSE PROBLEM OF OFFICIAL CONTACT WHICH SHENOUDA DESIRES  
DURING HIS APRIL VISIT TO US AND WHICH FONMIN FAHMY HAS  
TOLD YOU HE DOES NOT WANT.

2. FATHER GABRIEL ABDELSAYED AS AMERICAN COPTIC RECTOR  
WOULD ARRANGE THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL AND WHITE HOUSE CONTACTS  
THAT POPE SHENOUDA BE INVITED TO WORSHIP AT REGULAR SUNDAY  
SERVICE OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN WASHINGTON AFTER GETTING  
ASSURANCE THAT PRESIDENT WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE AND THAT  
PRESIDENT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO MEETING AND CHATTING WITH  
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SHENOUDA AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH AFTER THE SERVICE. GHORBAL  
WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE NOVELTY OF HIS SCHEME TO  
AVOID HAVING SHENOUDA RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

3. NEWBERRY TOLD GHORBAL THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD NO WAY OF  
COMMENTING IN ADVANCE ON WHETHER THE PRESIDENT OR THE  
PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WOULD ENDORSE SUCH AN

ARRANGEMENT. GHORBAL WANTED US TO BE READY TO SUPPORT HIS

AND FATHER GABRIEL'S EFFORTS WHEN THE TIME COMES. NEW-BERRY MADE NO COMMITMENT.

4. GHORBAL STATES THAT UN SYG HAS ALREADY AGREED TO RECEIVE SHENOUDA AT NY HEADQUARTERS ON APRIL 18, ACCORDING TO FATHER GABRIEL. SHENOUDA'S TENTATIVE DATES FOR U.S. SOJOURN ARE APRIL 14-21, INCLUDING PASTORAL VISITS TO COPTIC CONGREGATIONS IN NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINGTON AREAS.

6. FYI: ON BASIS OF INCREASINGLY STRIDENT TONE OF LETTERS FROM DR. SHAWKY F. KARAS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN COPTIC ASSOCIATION, ADDRESSED TO NEA/EGY ALLEGING DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO COPTS IN EGYPT, WE CANNOT BE SANGUINE ABOUT AMERICAN COPTS BEING CONTENT TO STAY WITHIN GHORBAL'S INGENUOUS SCENARIO. END FYI.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RELIGIOUS LEADERS, VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE028502  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DONEWBERRY:SEB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 1977 VISIT OF COPTIC POPE SHENOUDA TO US  
**TAGS:** OVIP, SOCI, EG, (SHENOUDA), (ABDELSAYED, GABRIEL)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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